



# Inside Illinois DNR

January 2019

Volume 7, Number 1

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## IDNR Careers

**IDNR offers a wide array of professional careers in the conservation and natural resource arena. Click [here](#) to see what jobs openings are available.**

## A Message from Director Wayne Rosenthal



The sight of a majestic bald eagle (or several bald eagles) in flight, or snatching a fish from the water, or perched in the trees on a river bluff is a sight to behold, and Illinois is one of the best places in the U.S. to see overwintering bald eagles.

January and February are prime times for bald eagle watching around Illinois' big rivers and state parks, as well as waterways and woodlands in many locations throughout the state.

One of the most popular interpretive programs held at our Illinois state parks is the annual Bald Eagle Days series of eagle-watching tours at Pere Marquette State Park near Grafton. On select winter days, participants meet at the Pere Marquette Visitor Center for a briefing on bald eagles. Then it's off in a caravan in and near the park to see bald eagles in and around some of the best scenery in the state. The programs are free, but reservations are required. Call Pere Marquette State Park at 618-786-3323.

Illinois is also home to a number of special events related to eagle watching, most of them scheduled for this month and next.

The popular Eagle Days event on the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge on the Mississippi River at Granite City is January 19 and 20, hosted by the IDNR, Missouri Department of Conservation, and the Great Rivers Greenway. The free event features educational programs, and eagle experts will be on hand with spotting scopes on the bridge for some breathtaking eagle watching.

On the Illinois River, the two-day Bald Eagle Watch weekend is January 26 and 27 in and around Starved Rock State Park in La Salle County. Hosted by the Illinois Audubon, the event features free programs at the Starved Rock Visitor Center, Starved Rock Lodge, and Illinois Waterway Visitor Center, with eagle watching from the Starved Rock bluffs and trails.

Dickson Mounds Museum helps sponsor the annual Fulton-Mason Eagle Day on February 2 in and around Havana and Lewistown, with activities at Dickson Mounds, the TNC Emiquon Preserve, and eagle watching on the Illinois River.

These are just a few examples of great wintertime events that will give you an excuse to round up the family, head outside, and see what all the excitement is about regarding the thousands of bald eagles that spend the winter in Illinois.

For more information on special events and eagle education activities, go online to: <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/eagles/Pages/EagleWatching.aspx>

*Wayne Rosenthal*

## DNR in the news

**Barkhausen's  
Influence  
Memorialized**

**CPO Snowmobile  
Rescue**

**Lebanon &  
Fireworks**

**Habitat  
Restoration Grant**

## Statewide Offices

**Springfield, IL**  
217-782-6302

**Bartlett, IL**  
847-608-3100

**Benton, IL**  
618-435-8138

**Chicago, IL**  
312-814-2070

## Highlights



### Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program Large Research Grants

Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant has a 2-year funding opportunity of up to \$180,000 for research relevant to southern Lake Michigan and the surrounding coastal communities. Areas of focus include aquaculture, invasive species, lake clean-up and health, green infrastructure, and more. Preproposals are due on February 4, 2019. [For more information click here](#)



### IDNR Announces 2018 Habitat Fund Project Grants

IDNR announced the approval of more than \$2.1 million in grants for 17 wildlife habitat projects through the Illinois Habitat Fund Special Wildlife Funds Grant Program. The program provides for enhancing game and non-game wildlife habitat through projects developed by not-for-profit organizations and governmental entities. Funding for the Illinois Habitat Fund Special Wildlife Funds Grant Program comes from the sale of Habitat Stamps to sportsmen. [For more information click here](#)



### New Grant Program Available to Help Companies Market Asian Carp Products

Gov. Bruce Rauner announced that companies and individuals interested in expanding demand for food and other products using Asian carp caught in Illinois waters are invited to apply for grant funding to assist their marketing efforts. Grants are now available through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Asian Carp Market Value Program to support current Asian carp processors and product-makers in expanding existing markets and developing new markets and sales opportunities for Asian carp products. [For more information click here](#)

**Check out these amazing time-lapse videos of Illinois' [Great State Parks](#)**



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## Highlights



### IDNR Reminds Anglers to Keep Safety in Mind When Ice Fishing This Winter

If you're planning to go ice fishing in Illinois this winter, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources wants you to review life-saving safety measures before heading out of the ice, drilling a hole and dropping a line. "The IDNR cannot stress enough the importance of safety when ice fishing. Outdoor recreation in the winter can be invigorating and a lot of fun, but can turn into a dangerous situation in just seconds. Being prepared and ready for anything while outdoors this winter, especially if you are headed out on the ice to fish, can save your life," said IDNR Conservation Police Chief Rafael Gutierrez.

[For more information click here](#)



### IDNR Reminds Snowmobilers to Focus on Safety This Winter

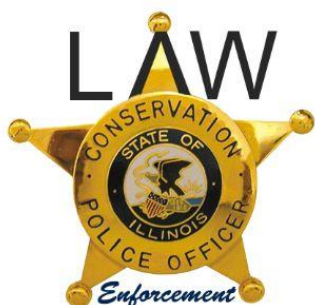
The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is reminding snowmobile operators and riders to use caution and focus on safety this winter when conditions are right for snowmobile riding. "Every year throughout the state, our officers respond to accidents involving snowmobiles, many of which could have been prevented had reasonable and proper precautions been taken," said IDNR Conservation Police Chief Rafael Gutierrez. "We want winter recreation enthusiasts to have a good time, while at the same time focusing on safety."

[For more information click here](#)



### Winter Nature Trek Set for Jan. 26 at Emiquon Preserve

The Emiquon Partnership-Dickson Mounds Museum, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge are hosting "Nature Trek: A Glacial Perspective" on Saturday, January 26, from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Representatives from each organization will present information on how glaciers from the last Ice Age formed the present-day Illinois River Valley. [For more information click here.](#)



### Tactical 2-Gun Monthly Match

The Tactical 2-Gun Monthly Match is hosted by the World Shooting and Recreational Complex in Sparta. It will be held on the second Saturday and

Sunday of every month. Preregistration is available on Practiscore. Check-in times for match are from 8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m., at the Berm.

[For more information click here](#)



### Fundraiser for Cahokia Mounds: Painting with A Purpose

This year, the annual fundraiser at *Painting With A Twist* in Shiloh is offering this custom painting of Monks Mound! This is always fun, and you can create a great painting with the step-by-step guidance at PWAT! Please come support Cahokia Mounds Museum

Society as we give back 50% of our proceeds to the organization. [For more information click here](#)



### Target Illinois Poachers

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources Office of Law Enforcement developed

the "Target Illinois Poachers" program to encourage any concerned citizen who witness a conservation offense to report the violation. Citizens who want to report violations can call the toll-free telephone number, 1-877-2DNRLAW (1-877-236-7529) or you can report the violation by e-mail. [For more information click here](#)





## Illinois Biodiversity FIELD TRIP GRANT

### Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant

January 31 is the application deadline for the Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip

Grant program. Teachers and home-schooling educators in Illinois may apply. Field trips must be dedicated to the purpose of studying Illinois natural resources-related topics at an Illinois destination. Generous donations from the D. F. and M. T. Grohne Family Foundation, the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation and the Independence Tube Corporation make this program possible. [For more information click here](#)



### Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund

In celebration of Illinois' 200th anniversary of becoming a state, your gift to the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund can be utilized to preserve and restore our states natural heritage and beauty. Now there are more options to donate. [For more information click here](#)



### Cahokia Mounds Museum Society Awarded \$100,000 Grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities

The Cahokia Mounds Museum Society (CMMS), the support group of the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, has been awarded a \$100,000 Digital Projects for the Humanities

Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The Cahokia Mounds Museum Society will use the digital projects grant to develop a functional prototype of an augmented reality application that will be available for smart phones and other platforms, and an educational website featuring the Cahokia Mounds site. [For more information click here](#)

[For more information check out our monthly calendar of events!](#)

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